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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Naval Forces Africa Partnership Station Visits Freetown

Throughout the week of March 7, the USS Robert G. Bradley will be visiting Freetown as part of the U.S. Navy's Africa Partnership Station (APS) program. APS is an international security operation initiative, facilitated by the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and other international partners, aimed at strengthening global maritime partnerships through training and other collaborative activities in order to improve maritime security in Africa. The APS mission is focused on combating the illegal trafficking of drugs and persons, safeguarding natural resources such as fossil fuels and fisheries, and deterring piracy.

The Robert G. Bradley (RGB) is a 4,100 ton U.S. Navy frigate with a crew of 17 officers and 198 enlisted persons. While visiting Freetown, the RGB crew will conduct a number of courses and activities in conjunction with their counterparts in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF). The purpose of these courses is to build on the strong cooperation that already exists between the governments of Sierra Leone and the United States, as well as to build maritime skills and promote regional peace and stability.

Three Sierra Leonean citizens are currently working on board the RGB to help support the Africa Partnership Station. During the week crew members from the RGB will also visit sites in and around Freetown to assist with community service projects.

For more information, please see <http://www.naveur-navaf.navy.mil/apshome.html>, or visit the APS Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/AfricaPartnershipStation>.